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MONTHLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1852.

Thursday, Jan. 29, 1852, 12 M. The Society held their stated meeting, — the President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from a Committee of the Second Church in Boston, the Editor of the "Western Horticultural Review" for 1851, the United States Ordinance and Topographical Department, Messrs. Edward Jarvis, Joseph Andrews, Jonathan Tenney, William G. Brooks, J. Wingate Thornton, and Rev. George Richards, and from Messrs. Lamson, Robbins, and Shurtleff, of this Society.

The Librarian, from the Committee on the Catalogue, reported verbally that the Committee had engaged Mr. Caloran O'Brien to make the catalogue, and that he had commenced the undertaking.*

Dr. SHURTLEFF preferred a request from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, that the deficient volumes in their set of the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society may be furnished to them. Whereupon,

Voted, That Messrs. Felt, Shurtleff, and Deane be a committee to take the subject into consideration, and make report thereupon.

Mr. TICKNOR, from the Third Section, read to the meeting certain letters written by the elder President Adams, while minister at the Court of St. James, to

* Mr. O'Brien labored for a time on a new catalogue of the Society's Library, writing the titles of the books upon cards which were placed, provisionally, inside the volumes; but his labor, as will be seen further on, soon ended. — EDS.

Philip Mazzei, of Pisa, Italy, the original of one of which and copies of the two others he had procured from Mazzei's representatives in Italy.*

The President, from the same Section, communicated to the Society a letter from the late Rev. Dr. Osgood, of Medford, Jan. 20, 1804, to the late Ebenezer Storer, Esq., of Boston, containing a criticism on Rev. Dr. Chauncy's work on "Universal Salvation."

The President communicated to the Society a manuscript copy of "Good News from New England," published in 1647–8, which copy was made under the direction of Sir Henry Ellis, from the original work in the British Museum. Whereupon,

Voted, To refer the same to the Publishing Committee.†

The Standing Committee nominated Francis Parkman, Jr., for Resident Member, *vice* Mr. William Gibbs.

Present — The President, Appleton, Budington, Deane, Felt, Francis, R. Frothingham, Jr., F. C. Gray, Jenks, Livermore, Lunt, Paige, Shurtleff, Ticknor, Winthrop, Willard, Worcester, and Young.

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* These letters were probably retained by Mr. Ticknor in his own possession. Mr. Ticknor was evidently interested in the character and career of Mazzei, and he once mentioned to the writer of this note that he himself had some letters, of this Italian adventurer, of considerable historical interest. See Life of George Ticknor, II. 92, 93. A letter from John Adams to Mazzei, dated "London, June 12, 1787," is printed in the Life and Works of John Adams, IX. 552. — Eds.

† It is printed in 4 Collections, I. 195–218. — Eds.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Feb. 26, 1852, 12 M. The Society held their stated meeting, — the President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from General Talcott, United States Army, Dr. C. T. Jackson, Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride, Commodore Morris, Theophilus R. Marvin, Esq., and from Messrs. Barry, Davis, and John C. Gray, of this Society.

Mr. FELT, from the Committee on the request of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, reported in favor of granting their request, excepting Vols. VIII., IX., and X. of the first series.

Voted, That the report be accepted, without the exception therein mentioned, and that the request of the said Society be granted.

Mr. FRANCIS PARKMAN, Jr., was elected a Resident Member, — Messrs. SIBLEY and BARRY, Scrutinizing Committee.

On motion of Mr. SAVAGE,

Ordered, That the Committee on the publication of the next volume of the Society's Collections be directed to make report at the next monthly meeting of the state of progress of the printing of the same, and when it may probably be published.

Also, *ordered*, That the Committee to revise the By-Laws of the Society, appointed last October, be requested to report at the next meeting on the election of officers, and especially if it be not expedient to provide that the election of each officer be made by ballot for a single name.

On motion of Dr. YOUNG, that another member be added to the above Committee, it was

Voted accordingly;

And Mr. TICKNOR was added to said Committee.

No communications were received from the members of the First Section.

Present — The President, Appleton, Barry, Davis, Felt, R. Frothingham, Jr., Shurtleff, Sibley, Ticknor, Willard, Worcester, and Young, at the opening of the meeting; and came in during the meeting, Adams, Austin, Ellis, Everett, Francis, F. C. Gray, Livermore, and Winthrop.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, March 25, 1852, 12 M., — the President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Hon. John Davis and Mr. James S. Loring, and from Messrs. Savage, Everett, Shurtleff, Sibley, Winthrop, and Worcester, of this Society.

The Librarian communicated a letter from the Corresponding Secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, expressing thanks for the volumes of our Collections completing their set, forwarded to them pursuant to a vote passed at the February meeting. He also communicated a letter from the Corresponding Secretary of the New Jersey Historical Society, addressed to Rev. Dr. Lowell, stating his having forwarded Vol. IV. of the New Jersey Historical Society's Collections to our Society, — which volume has not yet been received.

Dr. JENKS, from the Committee of Publication, reported upon the progress made in printing Vol. I., fourth series, and the Committee's expectation that it would be completed by the second monthly meeting from the present meeting; which report was accepted.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Mr. Francis Parkman, Jr., of Boston, accepting his election as a Resident Member of this Society.

Rev. Dr. YOUNG, from the Committee on the revision of the By-Laws appointed at the October meeting, 1851, reported in part, recommending a repeal of Articles IV. and V. of Chapter I., and that the following Articles be substituted, viz.: —

ARTICLE IV. — There shall be a meeting of the Society on the second Thursday of every month, and other meetings shall be called whenever the President, or, in his absence, either of the Secretaries, shall be requested to call them by the Standing Committee or by any five members, — the Recording Secretary issuing the accustomed notices.

ARTICLE V. — The officers of the Society shall be a President, who shall be *ex officio* Chairman of the Standing Committee, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, a Librarian, a Cabinet-Keeper, and a Standing Committee of five. They shall be chosen by ballot at the regular monthly meeting in April, and shall hold their respective offices for one year, or until others are duly chosen in their stead; but, at the regular monthly meeting preceding any election of officers, a Nominating Committee, consisting of three persons, shall be appointed by the chair, who shall report to the meeting at which the election is to be made a list of members for the places to be filled; no person being deemed eligible to more than one of the regular offices of the

Society at the same time, and no more than three of the existing Standing Committee being deemed re-eligible.*

The foregoing report having been submitted, and its recommendations having been discussed,

Voted, To accept the report, so far as made, and that the said Committee, in pursuance of their request, have further time to report on the subject of "a more general revision of the Laws and Regulations of the Society."

Under the newly adopted Article V., the President appointed Messrs. APPLETON, N. L. FROTHINGHAM, and LIVERMORE a nominating committee, to report at the next April meeting a list of members for officers for the then next ensuing year.

Voted, That as the annual Fast is appointed for the second Thursday in April, the Society's April meeting be held on the third Thursday of the month.

Messrs. DAVIS and SHATTUCK were appointed a committee on the Treasurer's accounts.

Rev. Dr. JENKS, from the Second Section, read a letter from Rev. Samuel Danforth, of Taunton, Aug. 8, 1720, to Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather, and to be communicated by him to the reverend ministers in Boston.

Voted, To refer this letter to the Publishing Committee.†

Mr. WILLARD presented to the Society, in the name of H. Weld Fuller, Esq., an Indian version of the Lord's Prayer, in the Milicete and Micmac dialects, together with a letter to Mr. Fuller on the subject of

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* In the Code of By-Laws revised in 1853, the former of these articles, somewhat modified, was introduced as Article 1, Chapter II.; and the latter as the sole Article of Chapter III. — EDS.

† This is printed in 4 Collections, I. 255–260. — EDS.

these tribes from their chief, M. H. Perley, Esq., of New Brunswick Province.

Voted, To refer the versions and letter to the Publishing Committee.*

Present — The President, Davis, Everett, Felt, Jenks, Livermore, Paige, Shattuck, Shurtleff, Willard, and Worcester, at the opening of the meeting; and came in during the meeting, Appleton, Blagden, Ellis, N. L. Frothingham, Robbins, and Young.

Voted, To dissolve this meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1852.

Thursday, April 15, 1852, 12 M. The Society held their stated meeting, — the President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from the New Jersey Historical Society, the Minnesota Historical Society, the United States Navy Department, the New Orleans Free Library, the American Secretary of Legation in Mexico, Messrs. Artemas Simonds and Edward Jarvis, and Rev. Rufus Anderson, D.D., and Messrs. Sibley, Savage, and Young, of this Society.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter from Mr. Whitehead, Corresponding Secretary of the New Jersey Historical Society, April 8, 1852, requesting, in behalf of that Society, that some duly authorized

* They were not printed by the Society, neither can they be found in the Library at the present time. — EDS.

person may be permitted to make copies of such of the papers of Governor Belcher, in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society as may refer to his administration of the government of New Jersey. Whereupon,

Voted, That the request of the New Jersey Historical Society be granted.

The Committee on the Treasurer's accounts for the past year, by Mr. Davis, their Chairman, made the following report, which was read and accepted, viz.: —

The undersigned, a Committee of the Massachusetts Historical Society appointed to examine the accounts of Richard Frothingham, Jr., Treasurer of the Society, have attended to that duty, and report, That the accounts are properly vouched and correctly cast, and that there appears to be a balance due to the Society of one hundred sixty-eight dollars and twenty-five cents on general account, and eighty-seven dollars and thirty-one cents on account of the sales of books.*

ISAAC P. DAVIS.

BOSTON, April 15, 1852.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting, under Article V. of the amended Rules, to report at this meeting a list of members for officers of the Society for the year now next ensuing, made the following nominations: viz., James Savage, for President; Joseph Willard, for Recording Secretary; Alexander Young, for Corresponding Secretary; Richard Frothingham, Jr., for Treasurer; Joseph B. Felt, for Librarian; Isaac P.

* The receipts for the year were $51, all for assessments. The payments amounted to $220.41, — $100 to Mr. Felt for services, $47.25 for taxes, and $73.16 for miscellaneous expenses. — EDS.

Davis, for Cabinet-Keeper; and Francis C. Gray, George Ticknor, Convers Francis, Edward Everett, and George E. Ellis, for the Standing Committee. Whereupon,

Voted, Not to accept said report.

And, on motion of Mr. TICKNOR,

Voted, That the names of Messrs. Gray, Ticknor, and Francis be struck off from the foregoing list of candidates for the Standing Committee, and that Messrs. George Livermore, N. B. Shurtleff, and N. L. Frothingham be substituted thereon.

A ballot was then taken, — Messrs. WINTHROP and WORCESTER, Scrutinizing Committee, to collect, assort, and count the votes; and the said Committee made report that the following gentlemen were chosen, viz.:

JAMES SAVAGE	PRESIDENT.
JOSEPH WILLARD	RECORDING SECRETARY.
ALEXANDER YOUNG	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, JR. . . .	TREASURER.
JOSEPH B. FELT	LIBRARIAN.
ISAAC P. DAVIS	CABINET-KEEPER.
EDWARD EVERETT GEORGE E. ELLIS GEORGE LIVERMORE N. B. SHURTLEFF N. L. FROTHINGHAM	. . . . STANDING COMMITTEE.

Rev. Dr. Frothingham declining to serve upon the Standing Committee, a new ballot was taken, — Messrs. WINTHROP and WORCESTER, Scrutinizing Committee as aforesaid, who made report that CHARLES DEANE was chosen in place of Dr. Frothingham.

Mr. WINTHROP, from the Third Section, read three interesting letters from Governor Pownall to Governor

Bowdoin, chiefly upon political matters under date of 1769, 1772, and 1778.*

Present — The President, Davis, Felt, R. Frothingham, Jr., Jenks, Livermore, Shurtleff, Ticknor, Willard, Worcester, and Young, at the opening of the meeting; and came in during the meeting, N. L. Frothingham, Paige, and Winthrop.

Voted, To dissolve this meeting.

JOSEPH WILLARD,
Recording Secretary.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, May 13, 1852, 12 M. The Society held their stated meeting, — the President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Messrs. Charles Warren, Matthew A. Stickney, Samuel A. Green, Henry Gassett, and David Pulsifer, and from Mr. Sparks, of this Society.†

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter from Mr. Francis Parkman, Jr., of this Society, accompanied with a present of the first volume of the Collections of the Louisiana Historical Society.

Rev. Dr. JENKS, from the Publishing Committee, reported verbally that Vol. I. of the Society's fourth decade was through the press, and would be ready for delivery probably in the course of the ensuing week.

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* See Proceedings for October, 1861, pp. 237–248, where these letters will be found. — EDS.

† The gift of Mr. Warren was a portrait of William Whishaw, Esq. — EDS.

Mr. DAVIS, from the First Section, communicated a letter, dated "Morristown, N. J., April 22, 1777," from General Washington to Captain Gibbs, afterwards Major Gibbs, of the Revolutionary Army, relating chiefly to the providing of a uniform for Washington's Corps of Life Guards, its color, &c.*

There being no further offerings from the First Section, Mr. WILLARD, from the Third Section, by leave, read the following letters addressed to the late President Willard, of Harvard College, by

1. Alexander Hamilton, Sept. 6, 1792.
2. J. Carroll of Washington, D. C., May 14, 1804.
3. John Adams, while in France, Sept. 8, 1784.
4. " " " " April 22, 1785.
5. General Washington, March 10, 1787.
6. Madam Washington, by Tobias Lear, June 6, 1800.
7. John Peter Buck, Peter's son, Hamburg, April 24, 1791.
8. Nathaniel Bowditch, Salem, Aug. 28, 1797.

This Buck letter brought up the subject of the articles in the collections of this Society more particularly pertaining to the department of Natural History. Whereupon,

Voted, That Messrs. Davis and Shurtleff be a committee to consider what there may be in our Collections more adapted to the purposes of the Boston Society of Natural History than to our own, and report thereupon.

Present — The President, Blagden, Davis, Felt, R. Frothingham, Jr., Hoar, Jenks, Lunt, Sears, Shurtleff, Young, and Willard, at opening; and afterwards, Deane.

Voted, That this meeting be dissolved.

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* Neither this letter nor the letters following, read by Mr. Willard, can be found on file. They were probably not deposited in the Library. — EDS.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, June 10, 1852, 12 M. The Society held their stated meeting, — the President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Messrs. J. H. Trumbull, Henry J. Prentiss, Thomas Bridgman, Charles M. Ellis, the United States Treasury Department, the Philadelphia Library, Rev. Preston Cummings, and from Messrs. Deane, Young, Winthrop, Wheatland, and Quincy, of this Society.

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on the subject of the articles in the department of Natural History belonging to the Society, made a verbal report in part, and the Committee had leave to sit again, and to make a written report in detail at a future meeting.

Voted, That a copy of Vol. I., fourth series, be presented to Miss F. M. Caulkins, and also a copy to each of the following gentlemen: viz., Rev. Joseph Hunter, of London, Rev. Mr. Bartlet, of Chelsea, and Rev. Dr. Jenks, the Chairman of the Publishing Committee.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter from Hon. Charles W. Upham, resigning his membership, May 19, 1852.

The President nominated, for Corresponding Member, Rev. Joseph Romilly, Registrar of the University of Cambridge, England.

The President communicated a letter from W. Hunter, Esq., acting Secretary of State, United States, with a return of a map of the United States, from the French of D'Anville, being one of a number received by the

United States Government on loan from this Society in 1828, to be used in the negotiation touching the north-eastern boundary line between this country and Great Britain.

A communication was received from the Maine Historical Society, requesting that they may be supplied with the volumes of our Collections, where deficient. Whereupon,

Voted, That the Librarian be directed to furnish all such volumes of which we have not less than twenty copies.

Dr. SHURTLEFF, from Ellis Ames, Esq., of Canton, Massachusetts, communicated a request for an exchange with the Society of certain Journals of the Massachusetts Legislature before the Revolution, &c. Whereupon,

Voted, To refer the subject to the Standing Committee, with full authority, in their discretion, to comply with the request.

On motion of Mr. F. C. GRAY,

Voted, That the President nominate a committee of four to prepare and publish the second volume of the fourth series of the Society's Collections.

Whereupon, the President nominated Messrs. ELLIS, ROBBINS, SHURTLEFF, and DEANE.

Voted, To accept the foregoing nomination.

Mr. LIVERMORE, from the Second Section, communicated a manuscript copy of Shepard's Diary.*

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* The following is the title-page of the manuscript presented by Mr. Livermore: —

"A portion of the Diary of Rev. Thomas Shepard, Minister of Cambridge,

Present — The President, Barry, Davis, Ellis, Felt, Jenks, Paige, Shurtleff, Ticknor, and Willard, at the opening of the meeting; and afterwards, Blagden, Everett, F. C. Gray, Livermore, Quincy, Robbins, Shaw, and Young.

Voted, To dissolve this meeting.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, July 8, 1852, 12 M. The Society held their stated meeting, — the President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Don Pedro de Angelis, of Buenos Ayres, Messrs. Asa D. Gove and Edward Jarvis, the American Philosophical

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N. E., copied page for page from the original manuscript for George Livermore, Esq., by David Pulsifer, MDCCCLII."

The following description of the Diary, in Mr. Livermore's hand, is pasted inside the cover of the book:—

"The original manuscript is now in New York. It begins Nov. 25, 1640, and ends March 28, 1644. A portion of this Diary, from the beginning to Dec. 27, 1641, was published in a small volume at Boston, in 1647, entitled 'The valuable pieces,' &c., &c. It contains a preface, signed by Thomas Prince, as a general introduction to the volume; and also a preface to the Diary, written, it is said, by David Brainard.

"The present portion of the Diary commences where the printed portion ends. This has never been published.

"Mr. Shepard was born at Towcester, England, Nov. 5, 1605; was educated at Emanuel College, Cambridge; came to New England in 1635; took charge of the church at Cambridge, Feb. 1, 1636; died Aug. 25, 1649. G. L."

This portion of Shepard's Diary is of little historical value, being principally a record of his religious experiences, and his communings with himself and his Maker. Another manuscript of Shepard's, which comprises his memoir or autobiography, was published by the Rev. Nehemiah Adams, D.D., in 1832, and later by the Rev. Alexander Young, D.D., in his Chronicles of Massachusetts. — Eds.

Society, the State of New York, the Loganean Library, the American Antiquarian Society, the Mercantile Library Association, and from Rev. Dr. Francis, of the Society.

The Standing Committee, to whom was referred at the last meeting the request of Ellis Ames, Esq., for the exchange of certain legislative Journals of Massachusetts, made a report, recommending the exchange proposed.

Voted, To accept the report, and adopt the recommendation of the Committee.

Voted, That the Publishing Committee of the next volume examine the memoir of the late Rev. Dr. Harris, prepared by the late Rev. Dr. Pierce; and if they are satisfied, upon examination, that any addition should be made to the same, that they obtain the memoir prepared by his son, Dr. Harris, of Cambridge, and place the memoirs in the hands of Rev. Dr. Frothingham, to be prepared for publication in the Collections under his direction.

The Standing Committee reported adversely to the request of Mr. S. Hopkins Emery for a loan of Danforth's Election Sermon, for the purpose of reprinting the same, and to Mr. George H. Moore's request for a loan of the volume of "Political Tracts."

The Standing Committee recommended that the request of Dr. Theodoric Romeyne Beck, June 28 last, in behalf of the Trustees of the New York State Library, for an exchange with this Society be granted. And, thereupon, it was

Voted, That the same be granted, and that Vol. I., of the fourth series of the Society's Collections, together with all subsequent volumes as published, be furnished to the New York State Library.

On the request of Mr. Benjamin F. French, June 23, 1852, in behalf of the "New Orleans Fisk Free Library,"

for a donation of the Society's "Catalogue, and such books as the Society is at liberty to give,"

Voted, To present to the Library Vol. I., fourth series, of the Society's Collections.

The Standing Committee nominated, for Resident Member, Ellis Ames, Esq., of Canton, in the place of Hon. Charles W. Upham, of Salem, resigned.

Rev. JOSEPH ROMILLY, Registrar of the University of Cambridge, England, was unanimously chosen a Corresponding Member of the Society.

The President laid before the meeting sundry letters of Rev. John Eliot, the Apostle to the Indians, as copied from the original by Rev. John Waddington, pastor of the church formed by Henry Jacob in Southwark, with the certificate of Hon. Abbott Lawrence, our Minister at the Court of St. James (under his official seal), of their being copies from the original, which he has seen.

Voted, To refer the same to the Publishing Committee of Vol. II., fourth series.*

Present — The President, Davis, Deane, Ellis, Everett, Felt, Francis, Hoar, Jenks, Lincoln, Livermore, Shurtleff, Willard, Worcester, and Young, at the opening of the meeting; and afterwards, R. Frothingham, Jr., Paige, Robbins, and White.

Voted, To dissolve this meeting.

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* See Proceedings for November, 1879. — EDS.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Tuesday, Aug. 12, 1852, 12 M. The stated meeting of the Society was held.

In the absence of the President and Recording Secretary, Hon. SAMUEL HOAR was chosen President *pro tem.*, and Dr. N. B. SHURTLEFF, Recording Secretary *pro tem.*

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Messrs. Samuel A. Green, Rev. Dr. Neale, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Maryland Historical Society, Hon. R. R. Hinman, the Governors of the New York Almshouse, the New York Historical Society, and from Messrs. Sparks and Shurtleff, of the Society.

ELLIS AMES, Esq., was elected a Resident Member, *vice* Hon. Charles W. Upham, resigned, — Messrs. SHATTUCK and YOUNG, Scrutinizing Committee.

Dr. SHURTLEFF, from the Committee appointed at the last May meeting to consider and report what there may be in the collections of this Society more adapted to the purposes of the Boston Society of Natural History, reported, —

That having attended to the duty assigned, they found that, in October, 1795, a very valuable collection of dried plants, collected in Europe, and consisting of twenty-two hundred specimens, was presented to the Society by Thomas H. Perkins, Esq., which collection was systematically arranged and catalogued by our late distinguished associate, Professor Peck, and has ever since their reception been pre-

served and watched with much care; that it was one of the early objects of the Society to make collections like the above mentioned; but that, in later years, the Boston Society of Natural History having been organized for the special study of natural sciences, having been in successful operation for more than twenty years, having conduced much to the advancement of science, and having the full confidence of the public, the Historical Society has, as a society, ceased to make collections and to pay attention to matters of this kind; and, therefore, they recommend that the valuable gift of Mr. Perkins (his consent having been obtained) be transferred to that Society, with a view to the furtherance of pursuits in natural science.

Whereupon,

Voted, To accept the report, and that the same Committee be authorized to transfer the property to the said Natural History Society.

A letter was received from Mr. Nahum Capen, requesting the privilege of taking from the Library certain "reference books which stand upon the reserved list."

Voted, Not to grant the request.

Present — Ellis, Felt, J. C. Gray, Hoar, Livermore, Lunt, Paige, Shattuck, Shurtleff, Worcester, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Sept. 9, 1852, 12 M. The stated meeting of the Society was held; and, in the absence of the President, Hon. Mr. EVERETT was chosen President *pro tem.*

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Mrs. Harding, of Medfield, Messrs. John S. Pulsifer, Samuel A. Green, James S. Loring, the Essex Natural History Society, the Connecticut Historical Society, and from Messrs. Ames, Wheatland, and Winthrop, of this Society; also, Mr. Ames's acceptance.

No communications were received from the members of the Second Section.

Mr. Davis communicated a short abstract from the Diary of Colonel Alexander Scammell, under date of 1772.

Present — Barry, Davis, Everett, Felt, Jenks, Shurtleff, Sibley, Willard, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Oct. 14, 1852, 12 m. The stated meeting was held, — the President in the chair.

In the absence of the Recording Secretary, Nathaniel B. Shurtleff was chosen Recording Secretary *pro tem.*

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Messrs. John M. Galt and Peter Force, Drs. J. C. Warren and Edward Jarvis, Professor Martyn Payne, and from Messrs. Ames and Sibley, of the Society.

A letter was received from J. E. Cabot, Esq., Corresponding Secretary of the Boston Society of Natural History, acknowledging the receipt of the cases of

European botanical specimens transferred to that Society with the consent of the donor, Hon. Thomas H. Perkins.

The President read an application from S. Hopkins Emery, of Taunton, for permission to transcribe and print certain letters in the Hinckley and Mather manuscripts. Whereupon,

Voted, That the President and Librarian be authorized to grant the request of Mr. Emery, on his application, according to the Rules of the Society, provided they see fit to do so.

Mr. SIBLEY, of the Third Section, announced that a company had discovered the locality of Popham's Settlement, and that an account would soon be given to the public by the Maine Historical Society.

Mr. SAVAGE communicated a letter from Mr. Shirley, of Stratford-on-Avon, concerning an old tract on Virginia.*

The President nominated James Ricker, Jr., Esq., of Haerlem, New York, as Corresponding Member.

Present — The President, Ames, Appleton, Barry, Davis, Felt, R. Frothingham, Jr., F. C. Gray, Jenks, Lamson, Livermore, Paige, Robbins, Shattuck, Shurtleff, Sibley, and Worcester.

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* We do not find this letter on file. — EDS.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Nov. 11, 1852, 12 M. The Society held their stated meeting, — the President being in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Messrs. L. W. Leonard, J. Wingate Thornton, David Turner, Jr., Maturin M. Ballou, the American Antiquarian Society, and from Messrs. Davis and Ames, of the Society.

A communication from the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries at Copenhagen, touching the early history of Ireland, England, and Iceland, and the Scandinavian discoveries in North America, was referred to Messrs. Barry and Jenks, to report thereupon.*

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* The following is the communication referred to: —

"ROYAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES,
"COPENHAGEN, July 29, 1852.

"SIR, — On behalf of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, I have despatched a parcel to the Massachusetts Historical Society. This parcel I beg to recommend to your kind care, as also our contemplated publication of British and Irish Antiquities, from records contained in old northern manuscripts. For the proper furtherance of this undertaking, it is of great importance that some interest should be awakened for the same in the United States of America, for which purpose it is necessary that our programme should enjoy a more extensive circulation.

"I have received a letter from London of November 21, stating that the Secretaries of the Royal Geographical Society and of the Society of Antiquaries will gladly do whatever lies in their power for the promotion of this object more especially for the more extended circulation of our programme. We indulge the hope that the Secretaries or Librarians of the Universities and Historical Societies in America will evince the same kindness with respect to this matter.

"One of the American Historical Societies has forwarded to the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries a 'History of the United States of America, Designed for the Use of Schools.' Therein is found a small section on the

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Rev. Joseph Romilly, accepting his election as a Corresponding Member of the Society.

JAMES RICKER, Jr., Esq., of Haerlem, New York, was elected a Corresponding Member of the Society, — Messrs. LIVERMORE and SIBLEY, Scrutinizing Committee.

A vote having been passed at the last July meeting "that the Publishing Committee of the next volume examine the memoir of the late Rev. Dr. Harris, prepared by the late Rev. Dr. Pierce; and, if they are satisfied upon examination that any additions should be made to the same, that they obtain the memoir prepared by his son, Dr. Harris, of Cambridge, and place the memoirs in the hands of Rev. Dr. Frothingham, to be prepared for publication in the Collections under his direction," — Mr. ELLIS reports from the Publishing Committee that the memoir by Dr. Pierce is inadequate

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discoveries of the Northmen, which, however, contains sundry inaccuracies and material errors, owing to the author's having been unacquainted with the work entitled 'Antiquitates Americanæ.' This has occasioned the drawing up of a brief sketch directly based upon the ancient records in the old Northern or old Danish language, which have been preserved in Icelandic manuscripts at Copenhagen and published in the work above mentioned. This sketch is now transmitted to you along with the programme, and may at pleasure be regarded as a manuscript for insertion in your journal, or in any other publication where it may find a suitable place and serve to diffuse the knowledge of this historical fact. Alexander Humboldt and other inquirers, who have had an opportunity of consulting the above-mentioned work, have fully acknowledged this, as well as also the position given in the work to the countries discovered, the accurate knowledge whereof seems to deserve to be more widely diffused.

"Recommending this matter to your kind notice, I beg to subscribe myself, your obedient servant,

"CHARLES C. RAFN,
"Secretary of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries.

"To the Secretary of the Massachusetts
"Historical Society, Boston."

EDS.

to the subject, and that Dr. Harris, of Cambridge, has prepared no memoir of his father. Whereupon,

Voted, That a communication of the facts be made by the Recording Secretary to Dr. Frothingham, and that he be requested to prepare the proposed memoir for the Society's Collections.*

On motion of Mr. ROBBINS,

Voted, That a committee be appointed to draft a series of resolutions appropriate to the memory of our late deceased associate, the Hon. Daniel Webster, and to report if any and what steps should be taken by the Society in consequence of his death.

Also, *voted*, That the Committee consist of three members.

Messrs. ROBBINS, DAVIS, and APPLETON were appointed to be of the Committee; and Mr. DAVIS having been excused on his own request, Mr. AUSTIN was appointed in his place.

Mr. FELT, from the First Section, communicated a printed Order of the Council of Massachusetts, 1678, authorizing contributions to be taken up in the churches to defray the expenses of bringing captives from Canada, taken at the assault on Hatfield, Sept. 19, 1677, and containing the amount of contributions of the several churches.

Voted, To refer this paper to the Publishing Committee of Vol. II., third series.†

Mr. AMES, from the First Section, gave notice of his preparing for the Society a copy of the Journal of Colonel William McKendry, late of that part of Stough-

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* A memoir of the Rev. Thaddeus Mason Harris, D.D., by Dr. Frothingham, is published in 4 Collections, II. 130–155. — EDS.

† It was not printed in that volume, neither does the Society's Index reveal its place in the Library. — EDS.

ton now Canton, Adjutant of a regiment in the army under the command of General Sullivan which made an expedition into the Genesee country in 1778, 1779.*

Present — The President, Ames, Appleton, Austin, Barry, Blagden, Davis, Ellis, Felt, R. Frothingham, Jr., Jenks, Livermore, Paige, Robbins, Shattuck, Shurtleff, Sibley, White, Willard, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Dec. 9, 1852, 12 M. The Society held their stated meeting, — the President being in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Professor C. C. Felton, Luke Lea, Esq., Commissioner for Indian Affairs, the Smithsonian Institute, the Attorney-General of Massachusetts, Hon. John Davis, the New York State Library, Samuel Appleton, Benjamin Stevens, Samuel A. Green, and John M. Galt, Esq., and from Messrs. Ames and Sparks, of this Society.

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* On the inside of the cover of this manuscript Mr. Ames has written the following: "All that is now to be found of the journal kept by William McKendry, formerly of Stoughton, now Punkapog Village in Canton, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, while on service in the war of the Revolution. [He was a lieutenant and quartermaster in Brooks's regiment.] This William McKendry was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati of Massachusetts, as appears by his signature on the roll. He died in Canton in 1798. Copied under the direction and at the charge of Ellis Ames in 1852, and this copy presented by him to the Massachusetts Historical Society." See Memorials of the Society of the Cincinnati, p. 396. The journal covers a period from October, 1777, to January, 1780. — Eds.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter of acceptance from James Ricker, Jr., Esq., elected a Corresponding Member at the last meeting; also, a copy from Mr. Ricker of his History of Newtown, Long Island.

Mr. BARRY, from the Committee to whom was referred at the last meeting a communication from the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries at Copenhagen, made a detailed report in writing, concluding with the recommendation of the passage of the following vote, viz.: —

Voted, That the Corresponding Secretary express to the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, at Copenhagen, in behalf of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the thanks of this Society for their communication by Professor Charles C. Rafn, their Secretary, dated July 29, 1852, together with the accompanying sketch by Professor Rafn of the early discoveries in America made by the Northmen in the tenth and eleventh centuries, and also the programme of the intended publications by the Society of Northern Antiquaries; and that this Society will be happy to avail themselves of such modes within their power of giving publicity to those documents, and otherwise of aiding and encouraging the designs of that Society, as shall accord with the wishes expressed in their communication, and shall best promote the general advancement of historical inquiry for which both societies labor in common.

Whereupon,

Voted, That the Society accept the foregoing report and pass the proposed vote.*

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* The following is the report, signed by William Barry and William Jenks: —

"The Committee to whom was referred a letter from the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries at Copenhagen to the Secretary of this Society, together with certain printed papers accompanying the same, beg leave to submit, as the result of their deliberations, the following report: —

"The subject-matters of the above communications are twofold. First, the attention of this Society is asked to the imperfect manner in which the alleged

Mr. ROBBINS, from the Committee appointed at the last meeting "to draft a series of resolutions appropriate to the memory of our late deceased associate, the

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discovery of the North American Continent by the Scandinavians in the tenth century has been presented in American historical works intended for schools. Allusion is made to a publication of this character forwarded, as the letter states, 'by one of the American Historical Societies to the Society of Northern Antiquaries'; but the name of the publication not being given, the committee have not the means of identifying it. The work referred to is alleged to 'contain sundry inaccuracies and material errors,' owing, as is supposed, 'to the author's want of acquaintance with the large work entitled "Antiquitates Americanæ,"' published by that Society.

"Professor Rafn, the learned author of this last-named work, has, accordingly, prepared a succinct account of that event, based upon his large work, the accuracy of whose geographical theories, he states, is supported by the authority of Alexander Humboldt and other inquirers.

"The Society of Northern Antiquaries, in submitting that sketch to this Society, request its insertion in our journal, or in any other publication, 'where it may find a suitable place, and serve to diffuse the knowledge of this historical fact.'

"The Committee, having examined the sketch by Professor Rafn, find it worthy of commendation for its brevity and the probable accuracy of its historical statements; and being on the whole rendered in good English, it would, in their estimation, be valuable to the American public, as presenting in a concise and lucid form the leading incidents connected with the supposed discovery.

"It should be added, however, that the sketch assumes the identity of the geographical localities visited by the Northmen as beyond question. This, in the judgment of the Committee would suggest a serious objection to any mode of publication by this Society which would carry with it the sanction of its authority. While they deem the subject one of sufficient interest to justify historical inquiry, which they very earnestly recommend, they cannot, in the present state of our knowledge and the almost entire absence of all modern verifications, either in existing or historical monuments, of an unquestionable character, consider the conclusions of the learned editor of the 'Antiquitates Americanæ,' though entitled to high respect, as fully established upon an historical basis.

"The Committee accordingly recommend that the printed sketch by Professor Rafn be placed in the hands of the Committee of Publication of this Society, to be included, if they judge proper, in the next volume to be printed by this Society; or, if its earlier publication be thought expedient, that they otherwise give it to the public in such form and by such channel as they shall approve.

"The other subject embraced in the communication from the Society of Northern Antiquaries, relates to their projected publications, in which they ask

Hon. Daniel Webster, and to report if any and what steps should be taken by the Society in consequence of his death," made the following report, viz.: —

Whereas, in the course of Divine Providence, the spirit of Daniel Webster has returned to God, and the places of public honor and private friendship which knew him on earth shall know him no more for ever, —

Resolved, That the members of the Massachusetts Historical Society, while, in common with the whole American people, they mourn his loss as an illustrious statesman, an ardent patriot, a wise counsellor, an eloquent orator, the ablest defender of the Constitution, and a great man, are desirous also, as a society, to express and record their

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the encouragement and aid of the Historical Societies and Directors of the Public Libraries in this country.

"Rich in historical materials, — the Arna-Magnæan collection alone containing near two thousand volumes of Northern manuscripts, not a few of which embrace matter of much interest connected with British and Irish history, as the result of the frequent intercourse between the Scandinavians of the North and the British Isles, — that Society solicit the generous assistance of Britain and America in order to render available to the world the valuable deposit in their possession. During the existence of their Society, for twenty-five years, they have published eighty volumes. They now propose, in particular, the publication of a new critical edition of the Orkneyinga Saga, the ancient Icelandic text to be accompanied by an English translation, with explanatory dissertations and elucidations of the antiquities of Scotland. To promote this end, they have instituted a new branch of their Society to be entitled 'the British and Irish Section,' besides providing for a class of individual *Participants* or *Associates*, as they are termed, and also for a class to be called *Founders*. The payment of one guinea annually constitutes an Associate or Fellow, or of twenty-eight Spanish dollars a permanent Fellow. The payment of fifty-six Spanish dollars constitutes a permanent Founder. Subscribers are entitled to the publications of the Society, including the proposed reprint of the Saga of the Orkneys, besides the customary diplomas.

"The Society simply ask our aid in giving a more extended circulation to their printed programme, and otherwise promoting their objects as may be in our power.

"The Committee therefore recommend that the programme of that Society be placed in the hands of the Committee of Publication, to be disposed of as they shall judge most favorable to the wishes of the Society of Northern Antiquaries.

"The Committee, in conclusion, recommend for consideration by the Society the following vote."

The vote in the text, p. 504, then follows. — EDS.

tribute of respect to the high services and renowned name of an honored associate, whose matchless powers, devoted to his country, have performed such works as enrich a nation's annals and make its history glorious.

Your Committee would recommend that Mr. George Ticknor be appointed to prepare a memoir of Mr. Webster for the Society's publications.

Whereupon,

Voted, To accept the report, and that Mr. Ticknor be requested to prepare a memoir of Mr. Webster for the Society's Collections.*

Also, *voted*, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

Also, *voted*, To publish the foregoing proceedings in the daily journals.

No communications were received from the members of the Second Section.

Voted, That the Recording Secretary furnish, at the next meeting of the Society, in January, a list of all those deceased members of the Society of whom no memoirs have been prepared for the Society's Collections.

Present — The President, Appleton, Austin, Barry, Davis, Ellis, Felt, N. L. Frothingham, R. Frothingham, Jr., Jenks, Lincoln, Livermore, Paige, Palfrey, Robbins, Shattuck, Shurtleff, Sibley, Ticknor, White, Willard, and Young. Mr. Palfrey was present for a few minutes only during the reading of part of the report of the

* Large collections for a Life of Mr. Webster were made by Mr. Ticknor, which were afterward placed in the hands of Mr. Everett. On the death of Mr. Everett, they were transferred to Mr. George T. Curtis, who had been named in Mr. Webster's will as one of his literary executors, and who published in 1870 a Life of Daniel Webster, in two volumes. In accordance with the plans of the Committee charged with publishing the early proceedings of the Society, it has been thought proper that some notice of Mr. Webster should be included in this volume. A brief notice, prepared by Mr. Winthrop, the President of the Society, will be found on pp. 529–531. — Eds.

Committee on the communication of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries.

MONTHLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1853.

Thursday, Jan. 13, 1853, 12 M. The Society held their stated meeting, — the President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from the New Jersey Historical Society, Messrs. James S. Loring, Joseph Ballard, Benjamin Loring, B. J. Lossing, S. G. Drake, John S. Pulsifer, Dr. Ebenezer Alden, Miss F. M. Caulkins, Hon. John Davis, the Mayor of Boston, two donors (names unknown), and from Messrs. Adams, Ames, Lunt, Lowell, Shurtleff, Wheatland, and Winthrop, of the Society.

Dr. YOUNG, from the Committee on the revision of the By-Laws appointed at the October meeting, 1851, and who reported in part at March meeting, 1852, made a final report of the proposed By-Laws. Whereupon,

Voted, To lay the same upon the table, and that the Publishing Committee be directed to cause fifty copies of the proposed By-Laws to be printed for the use of the members of the Society.

Also, *voted*, That the Recording Secretary, insert in the notices for the next meeting a notice that the subject of the proposed By-Laws will be then taken up for discussion.*

The Recording Secretary, who was directed at the last meeting to furnish a list of all those deceased mem-

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* Copies of the proposed By-Laws were accordingly printed, and in some instances sent out to the members with the notices of the next meeting. — EDS.